

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 MC-02 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 /062 R

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R 162154Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO OSD

CJCS

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

S E C R E T STATE 163010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, VS

SUBJECT: F5 AIRCRAFT

REFERENCE: DAO SGN RVN MSG 251130Z JUNE 73 NOTAL, DAO SGN

RVN MSG 101032Z JUL 73 NOTAL

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

THIS MESSAGE IS IN THREE PARTS. PART ONE FOR ALL:

1. REFERENCED MESSAGES RECOMMEND WITHDRAWAL OF 47 F5 ALPHA AIRCRAFT FROM REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN) FOR REPAIRS AND TREATMENT OF HEAVY CORROSION. AIRCRAFT ARE IN STORAGE

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AT BIEN HOA, RVN, AWAITING SQUADRON ACTIVATIONS. HEAVY

CORROSION DAMAGE IS BEYOND VNAF CAPABILITY TO REPAIR. SOME AIRCRAFT ARE NOT IN FLYABLE CONDITION. AIRCRAFT WERE ACQUIRED FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN (ROC) AND DELIVERED TO RVN UNDER ENHANCE PLUS DURING NOVEMBER 1972.

2. IN VIEW OF STATUS OF RVNAF ACTIVATION SCHEDULE AND FACT THAT AIRCRAFT REPAIRED AND RETURNED TO VNAF WILL REQUIRE EXPENSIVE REPAIRS AGAIN TO PLACE IN CONDITION ACCEPTABLE TO ROC AND ROK, STATE AND DEFENSE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE ABOVE AIRCRAFT (AND NINE (9) MAP AIRCRAFT AT WILLIAMS AFB, ARIZONA) TO REPAIR 56 AIRCRAFT USG IS OBLIGATED TO RETURN TO ROC AND ROK.

PART TWO FOR CINCPAC:

3. TO FACILITATE EXAMINATION OF THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES AND ADVICE TO HIGHER AUTHORITY FOR FINAL DECISION, REQUEST CINCPAC COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. ASSUMING DELIVERY OF F-5E AIRCRAFT TO VNAF COMMENCING APRIL 1974 (FIRST SQUADRON MAY 1974) AND DELIVERY OF 47TH AIRCRAFT BY NOVEMBER 1974, WHAT IS OPERATIONAL IMPACT OF F-5A (47 AIRCRAFT) WITHDRAWAL AT THIS TIME:
NOTE: USAF ESTIMATES REPAIR AND CORROSION TREATMENT WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE AT TAIWAN FACILITY, UNDER SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT PROCEDURES.

B. DOD PROJECT OFFICER IS: MR. ERICH F. VON MARBOD, COMPTROLLER, DSAA, TEL: OX7-9797.

C. JOINT STAFF CONCURRED IN THIS MESSAGE.

PART THREE FOR EMBASSY SAIGON

4. WE REQUEST EMBASSY SAIGON ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES OF AIRCRAFT EXCHANGE WITH ICCS, UNDER THE FOLLOWING SEVERAL OPTIONS:

A. LEAVE 47 F-5AS IN PLACE, REPLACE THEM ONE-FOR-ONE
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WITH F-5ES, PROBABLY BEGINNING APRIL 1974.

B. REMOVE CORROSION DAMAGED F-5AS NOW FOR REPAIR, RETURN ORIGINAL F-5AS BY SERIAL NUMBER TO RVN, POSSIBLE REPLACING F-5AS WITH F-5ES AT A LATER DATE. NOTE: REPAIR WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 12 MONTHS.

C. REMOVE CORROSION DAMAGED F-5AS NOW FOR REPAIR,

MAKING APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR REPLACEMENT WITH
F-5ES, BEGINNING IN APRIL 1974.

5. OPINION HERE IS THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE IS COMPATIBLE
WITH ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT PROVISION OF ARTICLE 7 OF 27
JANUARY 1973 PARIS ACCORD.

6. PLEASE DO NOT DISCUSS WITH ROC OR ROK. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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